

and allot more funds during the present Five Year Plan period or the next one?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the suggestion of the hon. Member will be taken into consideration and we will take a decision.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Hon. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is the heart of the country and pressure of the traffic is mounting there due to the increased movement from states all around. A scheme for the construction of National Highway in Madhya Pradesh has been forwarded. I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister will consider it in the budget of this year?

[Translation]

National Sports Talent

*346. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the detailed salient features of the National sports talent competition scheme in the country formulated by the Union Government;

(b) the amount sanctioned by the Government under the scheme during the last three years;

(c) the details of progress made therein during the last three years State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to grow undiscovered sports talent for national/international competitions?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The main features of National Sports Talent Competition Scheme are :-

- (i) To broadbase sports at grass root level and to bring sports consciousness among children of 8-12 age group for participation in sports;
- (ii) To identify the talented boys and girls genetically gifted with natural motor qualities and physical growth, and
- (iii) To impart scientific sports training to the selected children so as to achieve excellence in sports.

(b) The Government provided the following amount under the scheme during the last three years :-

(i) 1993-94	Rs. 499.69 lakhs*
(ii) 1994-95	Rs. 499.76 lakhs*
(iii) 1995-96	Rs. 310.00 lakhs

* (includes expenses on Army Boys Sports Companies)

(c) The scheme is implemented at present in 41 adopted schools located in various States/UTs. The number of students admitted under the scheme during the last three years is given below :-

(i) 1993-94	1241
(ii) 1994-95	1268
(iii) 1995-96	1362

A Statement I showing the numbers of student state wise is given in the annexure.

A number of children admitted under the Scheme have excelled at the National and International levels in Junior and Sub-Junior championships.

(d) To spot talent the Sports Authority of India has adopted a battery of tests, which is used for conducting selection trials at district, state and regional level. These children are nurtured in the adopted schools by providing scientific sports training so as to prepare them for national/international competition.

ANNEXURE

S.No.	Name of State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	57	44	17
2.	Madhya Pradesh	48	46	49
3.	Rajasthan	31	24	35
4.	Uttar Pradesh	98	81	107
5.	Chandigarh	59	52	71
6.	Haryana	97	101	128
7.	Punjab	23	24	32
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6	6	-
10.	Andhra Pradesh	88	67	46
11.	Karnataka	39	44	39
12.	Tamil Nadu	64	41	37
13.	Kerala	55	27	16
14.	Goa	-	23	28
15.	Maharashtra	85	107	177
16.	Gujarat	23	13	36
17.	Bihar	48	126	126
18.	Orissa	42	42	42
19.	West Bengal	177	178	174
20.	Sikkim	30	27	27

1	2	3	4	5
21. Meghalaya		22	26	22
22. Manipur		26	31	24
23. Nagaland		25	9	-
24. Assam		59	78	71
25. Tripura		30	20	20
26. Arunachal Pradesh		9	31	38
		1241	1268	1362

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : I am partly satisfied with the reply of the Hon. Minister. The hon. Minister has stated that talented children are selected at the district, state and regional level and they are admitted in the scientific sports school. I want to know from the hon Minister the number of children out of them who have been given chance in the national and international competition. I want its statewide list

[English]

SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R. : Sir, under this National Sports Talent Competition Scheme, we have taken 1,241 students during 1993-94, 1,268 students during 1994-95 and 1,362 students during 1995-96.

At the junior and sub-junior level, our students are showing good performance...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is giving his maiden answer.

SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R. : Regarding the achievements, in the field of hockey and football, NSTC children have virtually dominated in the prestigious tournaments like Jawaharlal Nehru Junior Hockey Tournament and Subrato Cup Football Tournament. In games like table tennis, gymnastics, athletics and swimming, a large number of NSTC children have already made a mark at junior national level and international level. During the last four to five years, NSTC children have won many medals at sub-junior and junior level in various national championships, and more than 40 medals at various junior, international championships. A large number of wrestlers from this Scheme have won medals at graded world class championships also.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Measles

*347. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of death due to Measles that

have come to the notice of Government during 1996 (so far):

(b) whether the Union Government have taken some steps for eradication of the disease; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) 214 case of deaths due to measles have been reported during 1996 so far.

(b) and (c) The Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme, launched in 1992, incorporates in Universal Immunization Programme for increasing the immunization coverage levels, including measles immunization. Due to late starting in introduction of measles vaccine into the immunization programme, Government of india does not yet have a goal for eradication of measles. However, coverage levels have steadily improved to over 80% nationally.

Assistance for Inter-State Road Bridges in Assam

*348. SHRI KESHAH MAHANTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any financial assistance has been provided to the Government of Assam for inter-State road bridges of economic importance during the last three years;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the criteria laid down for selection of such projects for providing Central assistance?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). Due to paucity of funds no financial assistance has been provided to Assam under the E&I scheme during the last three years.

(c) Projects for Central assistance are chosen on the basis of the following criteria :

(i) Inter-State roads/bridges necessary for ensuring through communication.

(ii) Roads/Bridges required for opening up new areas to which railway facilities cannot be provided in the near future.

(iii) Road/Bridges which can contribute materially to rapid economic development, e.g. to hilly areas and places having mineral resources for exploitation.

(iv) Roads or bridges on roads connecting National Highways.

Proposals for assistance are sanctioned on the basis of detailed estimates.